



Thanks to Canadian Association for Renewable Energies We CARE  
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### **Canada to Spend Millions to Support Renewable Energies**

OTTAWA, Ontario - The government of Canada will spend up to \$450 million on renewable energy, energy efficiency and other sustainable energy options, according to the federal budget.

"In the modern global economy, the nations that thrive will be those that excel at innovation," said Finance minister Paul Martin. "Building an economy that can innovate and compete with the rest of the world during a time of historic change requires a national effort and contributions from all public and private sector organizations."

"Canadians understand that clean air, clean water and healthy habitats are essential to a high quality of life," he added. "These priorities call for innovative ways of thinking about our collective environmental responsibilities. Canadians must co-operate in developing new technologies and practices that will be essential to their well-being in the 21st century."

Since 1998, the federal government has been working with its provincial counterparts, the private sector and environmental groups to develop a National Implementation Strategy for Climate Change. The strategy will be finalized this year and will outline a comprehensive plan to meet Canada's commitments to reduce its emission of greenhouse gases by six percent over 1990 levels by the 2012 timeframe.

To maintain momentum, the budget provides \$700 million over the next three years to protect the environment and to harness new technology that will respond effectively to the challenges of climate change. Funding of \$25 million will be given to municipalities to determine the best approach to renewable energy, building retrofits, water conservation, waste management and urban transit projects. Another \$100 million will be committed to a revolving fund that allows communities to support projects in energy and water savings, urban transit and waste diversion, and to use repaid loans to support new projects.

"The development, dissemination and use of environmental technologies are essential as Canada makes the transition to a more environmentally benign information economy," said Martin, who will create a Sustainable Development Technology Fund with initial federal funding of \$100 million to stimulate new environmental technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as wind turbines and fuel cells.

Another \$210 million will be added to the Climate Change Action Fund that was established in 1998 to meet Canada's international climate change commitments. The Fund has supported technologies such as carbon sequestration and alternative fuels, and supported district energy

projects, and this additional funding will support federal energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

"The federal government will also continue to show leadership by taking responsibility for its own emissions of greenhouse gases through renewed emphasis on energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy within government operations," promised Martin, who said a pilot green energy program in Alberta will be expanded to procure \$15 million of renewable energy over the next decade for federal facilities in Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island. Over the next few years, the federal government will also strive to increase its purchases of green energy for all of its facilities across Canada.

Additional support was also included in the budget for academic research to address the impact of climate change and air pollution on human health, including \$60 million to fund the Canadian Foundation for Climate & Atmospheric Sciences. Another \$100 million will go to the Canadian International Development Agency to assist developing countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable development, plus another \$15 million to support the World Bank's Prototype Carbon Fund.

"Through this investment, Canada will contribute to new approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in both developing countries and economies in transition," said Martin.

The federal budget will provide \$9 million to the National Roundtable on the Environment & the Economy and to Environment Canada to develop environmental and sustainable development indicators, which will contribute to environmental policy making. The indicators will provide a basis for assessing the interactions between the economy and the environment and will improve Canada's ability to measure its progress on improving the environment.

[http://www.fin.gc.ca/budget00/bpe/bpch5\\_1e.htm#Environmental](http://www.fin.gc.ca/budget00/bpe/bpch5_1e.htm#Environmental)  
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